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Executive Registry

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JAN 30 1964
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WE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lt. Gen. Jos. F. Carroll, Director
 Defense Intelligence Agency
 The Department of Defense,
 Room 3E 258, The Pentagon

SUBJECT: Interrogation of Viet Cong Prisoners in South Vietnam

As you are aware, the Vietnam Working Group has recently expressed increased interest in Viet Cong prisoners and defector interrogations as a source for determining Vietnamese motives in joining the insurgents. The United States mission in Saigon has been instructed to focus on this matter (Department Telegram 1131, January 27, 1964, which draws attention to the existing facilities of the National Interrogation Center [NIC] in Saigon).

We have long believed that an effective interrogation program could cast a great deal of light on the basis of the Viet Cong appeal in the countryside with important implications for counter-measures. However, we are relatively uninformed on existing interrogation procedures both in the NIC and at lower military echelons and have only recently received some idea of the nature and content of NIC interrogations from raw interrogation reports loaned to us by DIA. We would, therefore, appreciate a briefing on the current status and prospective development of Vietnamese Government interrogation operations and hope that our representatives Messrs. Allen S. Whiting and Louis G. Sarris, can meet with the appropriate persons in the very near future. If convenient, we would prefer to have such a briefing at the Department of State so that interested persons from Governor Harriman's office, Mr. Hilsman's office, and the Policy Planning Council could also attend.

We understand that the Central Intelligence Agency also receives the NIC reports mentioned above which MACV transmits to Washington. We should appreciate having INR placed on distribution for these reports.

George C. Denny, Jr.
 Acting

CC: Mr. McCone - CIA ✓

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